

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Abkhazian ASSR)

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SUBJECT Tung Oil Factory at Ochemenchiri

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Location of Factory

1. The Tung Factory is located on the northeast edge of Ochenchiri (42-43N, 41-23E), on the main road Sukhuri-Tbilisi/Batumi, about 2 km away from the sea coast. The railroad station, which is a little beyond the city limits, is about 1 1/2 km northwest of the factory.

Development of Factory

2. The construction of the installation was started by PWs in 1948. Construction and installation work was finished in the summer of 1949. As an experiment, the factory was put in operation for a few days, and then operations were stopped. A commission came from Tbilisi to inspect the situation. After that, the factory was idle again, with no production for several weeks. PWs did not know the reason for this delay in starting production.

Factory area

3. The size of the factory compound is estimated to be about 300 x 500 m. The area is sparsely built, but the construction of other annexes or additional buildings will follow.

Administration

4. Factory management is controlled by a man called Solonize (sic)*. He issues all orders, which come to him from a central office located in Tbilisi.
5. Commissions were often seen in the construction area. They were composed of civilians and the military, including a lieutenant colonel. These commissions came from Tbilisi, often several times a month, but sometimes at intervals of one-two months. The factory did not have any German machinery or German civilian engineers under contract.

Equipment

6. The technical equipment of the factory is brand new. Motors for running

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separate pieces of machinery came from Sweden, and the machinery, such as compressors, originated in America. Other technical equipment is of English origin. The installation appears to be completely mechanized.

Plant Description

7. The drying installation is a building 12 x 35 m and about 25-30 m high. The spacious interior is filled with numerous small grates which are used for drying tung fruit. The fruit is placed on the grates; in drying it shrinks a little and from the outside looks like and has the same color as pecans. When the fruit is dried, it is sent to the processing installation.
8. The processing and press installation, which is the chief installation, has been set up in the southern part of the compound. It is a stately two-story building about 24-30 x 100 m and has a flat roof. The building contains approximately 6-18 mixing machines in which the fruit is processed by a special method. The mixers are metal and cube-shaped, about 1.7 x 1.5-1.7 m. and 2.25 m high. Each mixer has two spirals which do the mixing. From the mixers the fruit thus processed passes on to the special filtering presses, which, [redacted] were set up proportionately, two mixers to one press. Such a press was 2.5 m long and 1.8 to 2 m wide and looked like a large frame. Both heads of the press were made of massive metal of considerable thickness. The whole press weighed six tons. About 12-16 smaller removable frames, over which a twilled cloth was spread, were set in this large press frame. The heads moved toward each other to the center and pressed against the cloths spread out over the small frames, through which the oil seeped in its crude form. It was collected under the presses and further refined. The processing equipment is similar to that used in a factory producing cellulose fiber.
9. When production is in full swing, the oil produced in the factory is to be piped into a special oil storage depot, a one-story building in the western part of the compound. Twenty to twenty-five oil tanks have been set up in the building, each of which, [redacted] will be able to contain 15,000-20,000 liters of oil.
10. Boilerhouse and compressors are housed in one building approximately 16 x 40 m in the eastern part of the compound. [redacted] It is an installation chiefly used for heating the drying-room and for running the compressors which were procured from American lend-lease. It is doubtful that any current is generated here in view of the small size of the installation. The current necessary for operation is probably obtained from a high tension line coming from the transformer situated west of the boilerhouse.
11. The administration is housed in a one-story building, about the size of a barracks building, north of the main entrance. A forge and a locksmith's shop are located in a separate building, also about the size of a barracks building, east of the main installation.

Production

12. The installation is reportedly engaged in the production of a special superior quality oil for airplane engines. Some PW's estimated production volume at 40 tons daily, and others said 400 tons, which is undoubtedly far more than such a small factory could possibly produce, in source's opinion.

Power Supply

13. The installation probably obtains its current from the power plant in nearby Kvezani (42-50N, 41-41E), about 20-35 km. up the Galizga River, which empties into the Black Sea near Ochershiri.

Transportation

14. A spur extends into the compound from the main railroad Sukhumi-Tbilisi/Batumi. During the period of construction, the spur was used partly for the transportation of building materials and is now used to bring in the tung fruit, which is cultivated in the vicinity on large state-owned farms. Shunting service is provided by locomotives belonging to state-owned railways.

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Labor

15. Personnel was estimated to be, at the time of the trial production in summer 1949, 350 Russians and about 50 PW's, most of whom were assigned to work in the drying installation, where the fruit had to be turned over with shovels. When operations start, the factory is to run on three shifts.
16. The construction work, which was done chiefly by PW's, was limited to one shift. Modern machinery was not used in the construction of the installation. Only blocks and tackles were set up for the assembly of the large mixers and presses. Digging had to be done for the most part with pick and shovel.

Security

17. The factory is guarded by a special installation guard. The entire area is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. At the four corners, watchtowers have been set up to afford greater security. The top security officer, who is also personnel security officer, is a major in the MVD and appears to be chief of personnel.

Attachments: 1. Location of Tung Factory
2. Lay-out of Tung Factory

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Comment: Probably Saloniidze.

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